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SECRET - ~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ August 21, 1953

To: The Secretary

Through: S/S
Through: U - The Under Secretary

From: The Assistant Secretary for European Affairs

( ) SECRET
( ) CONFIDENTIAL
( ) RESTRICTED

Subject: Recommendation that you sign letter designed assist National Committee for a Free Albania refute communist propaganda regarding territorial integrity of Albania.

Discussion:

Communist propaganda has successfully used the theme that Albania's neighbors intend to partition Albania, and that the pro-soviet (Hoxha) regime is the only government which can protect the territorial integrity of that country. While established and publicized US policies look to the creation of a free and independent Albania, we have been unable, primarily because our relations with Greece do not permit us formally to disregard Greece's territorial claims on Albania, publicly to endorse the present Albanian frontiers.

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Attached is a reply from the Department (Tab A), to be exchanged on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the creation of the NCFA. These letters, which will be given appropriate publicity by the NCFA on August 26, are designed to assist the NCFA in meeting the problem posed by communist propaganda on the territorial integrity theme. While the traditional US position is maintained, through the device of welcoming recent statements by officials of the Italian, Yugoslav and Greek governments relative to Albania's independence and integrity, the Department's reply will assist the NCFA in meeting communist allegations that the US would permit the partition of Albania by its neighbors.

In order to have the maximum effect, the Department's reply should be signed by the Secretary of State.

Recommendation:

That you sign the attached letter (Tab A) which will be held in EUR until the receipt, on August 26, of the letter from NCFA.

Concurrence: 767.00/8-2653

EE, WE, NEA/ARI.

Attachments:

Tab A: Letter addressed to NCFA, to be signed by the Secretary.
Tab B: Letter to be addressed to the Secretary by the NCFA.

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ACTION
is assigned to

Komiteti Kombetar Shqiperia e Lire
National Committee for a Free Albania

119 WEST 57th STREET
ROOM 816
New York 19, N. Y.

August 21, 1953

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On the eve of the fourth anniversary of the formation of the National Committee for Free Albania, which took place on August 20, 1949, we present our compliments to your Excellency and take this occasion to repeat our grateful thanks for the many occasions in the course of our brief history when the government and people of the United States have shown by word and deed their support of the ideals of freedom and justice, which are the objectives for which we work. In the four years of its existence the National Committe For a Free Albania has devoted its energies to keeping alive the spirit of opposition among the people of Albania and rallying Albanians abroad in support of this purpose. We feel that on this fourth anniversary we can say that by our efforts and with the help of our American and British friends we have made significant progress toward our goals.

Today, as a result of Communist misrepresentations and lies, a new problem confronts our committee in its efforts to keep alive the spirit of resistance among our brothers in Albania. In its propaganda, the Communist regime has attempted to convince the Albanian people that its neighbors on the Balkan Peninsula and, indeed, the United States and the United Kingdom have agreed to a partition of Albania between the neighboring states. To us living in the free world, such a claim is obviously false, but the Albanian public, victimized by incessant propaganda and unable to learn the truth except with great difficulty, has no reliable means of exposing this lie.

We have, therefore, been gratified by the statements recently made by Albania's neighbors making public their views on this question, statements which we have the means to publicize inside Albania itself. We have particular reference to the recent communique of the Balkan Pact powers in which the governments of Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey stated, the independence of Albania would constitute an element of importance to the peace and stability of the Balkans; the announcement of May 8, 1953 by a spokesman of the Italian Foreign Office that "Italy's viewpoint on Albania is well-known:

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liberty, independence and territorial integrity"; and statements by prominent Yugoslav officials such as the announcement on May 21, 1943 by Dr. Mosa Pijade that " a guarantee of Albania's territorial integrity and sovereignty ... would fit in with our basic principle: the Balkans for the people of the Balkans".

We take this occasion to express the hope that the United States, to which so many suffering people look for material and moral support in the common struggle against Communist oppression, will find it consistent with its aims to associate itself with the other countries who have given the lie to Communist falsehoods concerning the partition of Albania.

The members of the National Committee for a Free Albania wish to take this opportunity to express to the United States Government appreciation for its hospitality to them and to all refugees and to convey the hope that the United States will continue to fight for the freedom of all from Communist oppression.

Respectfully yours,

Hasan Dosti, President
National Committee for a Free Albania

The Honorable John Foster Dulles
Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

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